

BEST AVAILABLE COPY *16 May 1966*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: Proposed Discussion of Erik HEINE Case with Sir Richard White

1. In our continuing review of pertinent file and documentary material on Erik HEINE we have found that an individual who may be able to provide significant information is Colonel Alfons REBANE, former Commanding Officer of the Estonian Legion who was used by MI-6 as Principle Agent for British-supported black operations into Estonia shortly after World War II. An important support element of the MI-6 operations was a paramilitary resistance group known as the Forest Brothers, whose members lived in bunkers in the woods and engaged in guerrilla operations against Soviet security organs. While initially the group was composed of loyal, if somewhat fanatical, Estonians, at a very early stage, probably shortly after World War II, the group came under Soviet control. Erik HEINE claims to have served with one of the Forest Brothers bands from 1946 to ~~INENI~~ 1950.

2. Colonel REBANE was an Estonian army officer in the 1930's, went into hiding when the Soviets first occupied Estonia, and ~~he~~ enlisted with the German Army during the subsequent German occupation. He saw service against the Soviet Army on the Eastern Front, was decorated by the Germans, given command of a Regiment of the 20th Estonian Division in combat against the advancing Soviet Army, and at the end of the war served briefly as Division Commander when the Division broke up in Czechoslovakia. REBANE settled in England after the war but is believed now to reside in ~~Hertfordshire~~ *August 1965* Germany.

3. REBANE was invited to the United States by Estonian ~~the~~ *the* organizers.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

D-R-A-F-T

tions for a lecture tour in 1962 and again in 1964. ~~REBANE~~ During ~~MI~~ his first visit he met HEINE and reportedly disbelieved HEINE's version of his biography. REBANE's ~~opinion~~ opinion at that time was given some weight by Estonian emigres in the United States. In light of REBANE's service for MI-6 and his undoubted knowledge of the Estonian partisan movement after World War II, his remarks assume considerable significance.

4. We propose to approach MI-6 through [] with the request that they arrange for an Agency officer to discuss the HEINE case with Colonel REBANE. I believe it would be useful to mention this briefly to Sir Richard during his current visit.

D.E.M.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

1. It is proposed that arrangements be made with MI-6 to interview Colonel Alfons REBANE, an Estonian national and Commanding Officer of the Estonian Legion, who was used as a Principal Agent by MI-6 when it was running REDSOX-type ^{Operations} into and out of the three Baltic Republics. An important support element of the MI-6 operations was a para-military resistance group known as the Forest Brothers. Its members lived in bunkers in the woods and engaged in sabotage, murder and other subversive activities directed against the Soviets who occupied their countries. While initially the group was composed of loyal, if somewhat fanatical, Estonians, at a very early stage, probably shortly after World War II, the group came under hostile control.

2. It is believed that Colonel REBANE can provide this Agency with valuable information on Erich HEIDE who overtly stated and testified under oath during the deposition conducted by Yuri RAUS's lawyers that he escaped from the Soviet prison camp in 1946, joined the Forest Brothers, and participated in their activities until he was again arrested by the Soviets in 1950.

3. According to information obtained by the investigators used by Yuri RAUS's lawyers, Colonel REBANE was in the United States and Canada in September 1961 during which time he attended several emigre social gatherings at which Erich HEIDE was also present. REBANE is quoted as having said "This man HEIDE is dirty". The remark could be simply ascribed to typical emigre gossip but it assumes substantially more significance when we consider REBANE's known intelligence activities.

4. There is no indication that REBANE has been identified directly to this Agency as being in their employ. However, operational developments which led to round-robin type-of discussions between CIA and other intelligence agencies did bring out REBANE's role for MI-6. Therefore, it is not believed that a request will result in any flap. Should it appear more expedient, it is suggested that

Poor Duke